

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Gott Road  
Princeton, West Virginia 24740



HS 298

June 6, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK F. McMANUS  
Subdistrict Manager

FROM: S. E. GASPERSICH  
Coal Mine Safety Specialist

SUBJECT: Report of Investigation of Coal Outburst, Beatrice  
Mine, Beatrice Pocahontas Company, Keen Mountain,  
Buchanan County, Virginia, May 8, 1978

RECEIVED  
JUN 07 1978

M. E. S. A.

Richlands, Virginia 24141

A coal outburst occurred about 11:10 p.m., May 8, 1978, along the rib of the entry chain pillar about 150 feet in by survey station No. 10833 in No. 2 plow section (No. 2 development No. 2 north). There were no injuries or property damage. The incident was reported by telephone about 1:40 a.m., May 9, 1978, and investigated the same day.

The outburst occurred during plowing operations. Michael Belcher, headgate foreman, Berlin Shortridge, plow operator, Dallas England, operator's helper, and James Staton, mechanic, were working along the headgate entry when the outburst occurred. Ventilation brattice was displaced and line posts along the rib of the affected pillar were dislodged and deflected onto the chain conveyor. Coal was ejected along the rib and piled against the conveyor line.

The outburst occurred along a chain pillar developed to be 32 feet wide and 82 feet long. The overlying strata was about 2,100 feet in thickness and the floor resisted heaving in the outburst area. It is unusual for an outburst to occur in this mine along the headgate entry because the relatively small pillars usually yield to superimposed loads of such magnitude. Floor heaving lagged along the No. 1 row of chain pillars compared to No. 2 row. Inasmuch as the other factors such as thickness of overburden and roof strata may be constant as determined from topographic and bore hole data for the life of the section, it was recommended that holes be drilled in the floor and shot along the No. 2 entry in the event that the floor continues to be inflexible as the longwall face retreats.

Observations along the longwall face revealed a strong massive main roof that resisted caving near the headgate entry. Floor heaving was

pronounced most of the way outby the longwall face along the tailgate entry and extreme loading of the large tailgate entry chain pillars seemed improbable.

Attachment  
Sketch of coal outburst area

cc: Herschel H. Potter

